

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to memorialize and honor Ray
Nichels.

LANDSKE

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

Second Regular Session 114th General Assembly (2006)

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to memorialize and honor Ray Nichols.

Whereas, Ray Nichols was a pioneer of auto racing, beginning his career as a crew chief at the young age of 15;

Whereas, throughout his career, Ray Nichols won multiple accolades for his engine-building efforts in the 1950s and 1960s, including the Indianapolis 500 Pole Mechanic of the Year in 1957;

Whereas, after over 20 years of experience in racing, Ray and his friend Paul Russo built the famed "Basement Bessie" car that set a series of world speed records;

Whereas, in addition, for the NASCAR Winter Grand Nationals at Daytona in 1957, Ray built a surprise-entry car for Pontiac that won the race;

Whereas, the knowledge that Ray Nichols originated is still fundamental in the building of engines and cars today. Drivers are still familiar with the design ingenuity attributed to Ray Nichols and the significant impact he has had on the racing industry as a whole;

Whereas, despite his success, Ray always maintained a humble approach to life. In a fitting testament to his



character, the annual sportsmanship award at Illiana Speedway in Schererville has been named for the Merrillville resident for several years; and

Whereas, Ray Nichels' life and contributions to racing will be honored at the Living Legends of Auto Racing annual banquet on February 15, 2006, in Daytona Beach, Florida. Bill LaDow's book about Nichels, "Conversations with a Winner," is scheduled for release coinciding with the Living Legends of Auto Racing banquet: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly memorializes and
- 2 honors Ray Nichels for his lifetime achievements. He made
- 3 tremendous contributions to the racing community and he will be
- 4 greatly missed.
- 5 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
- 6 transmit a copy of this Resolution to Ray Nichels' wife, Eleanor
- 7 Nichels, and to the Living Legends of Auto Racing.

